**MEETING MINUTES**
**City of Polk City**
**Work Session**

**5:00 p.m., April 13, 2026**
**City Hall Council Chambers**

A City Council Work Session was held on April 13, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. at the City Hall Council Chambers in Polk City, Iowa. Mayor Karsjen and City Council Members, Rob Sarchet, Jeff Savage, Dave Dvorak, James Hill, and Nick Otis were present.

## *Minutes*

Presentation from Greater Des Moines Partnership on Economic Development Opportunity for the City of Polk City

Representatives from the Greater Des Moines Partnership, including President and CEO Tiffany Tauscheck, Senior Vice President of Economic Development Stacie LoVan, and Chief Communications and Engagement Officer Courtney Shaw, provided a presentation on economic development opportunities for the City of Polk City. The presentation included an overview of the Partnership's regional role in business recruitment and retention, talent development, public policy advocacy, and marketing and storytelling initiatives. Partnership staff shared regional growth data, targeted industry sectors, talent attraction and retention programs, small business support services, and current regional marketing campaigns and events.

Partnership representatives presented a proposed one-year pilot program designed to provide Polk City with part-time, dedicated economic development staff support. The proposal included 15 hours per week of focused staff time to assist with local commercial growth, business recruitment and retention, developer and site readiness support, and strategies to capture visitor traffic from nearby recreational assets. The presentation outlined potential focus areas, deliverables, progress reporting, and the importance of establishing measurable metrics to evaluate program effectiveness and return on investment.

Council members asked questions and provided feedback regarding the proposed pilot program, including the uniqueness of Polk City's market challenges, infrastructure limitations, feasibility of certain commercial uses, the importance of local knowledge and lived experience, and the need for consistent economic development efforts. Council members also discussed expectations for accountability, performance metrics, and reporting to assess outcomes over time. Partnership representatives emphasized a collaborative approach, flexibility to tailor efforts to Polk City's needs, and regular progress reporting. No formal action was taken, and the Council indicated the proposal would be considered further at a future date.

## *Adjournment*

Motion was made by Otis and seconded by Dvorak to adjourn at 5:52 p.m.
*Motion carried unanimously.*

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Steve Karsjen, Mayor

Attest

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Susan Lawton, City Clerk